

Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1967

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and the

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

for the year

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I N D E X

	<u>Page:</u>
Public Health Officers of the Authority	I
<u>REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH</u>	II
A. <u>General Statistics:</u>	III
B. <u>Vital Statistics:</u>	
1. Birth and Death Rates	III
2. Live Births	III
3. Still Births	III
4. Infant Mortality	IV
5. Analysis of Causes of Death	IV
C. <u>Infectious and Notifiable Disease:</u>	
1. Notifications	IV
2. Tuberculosis	VI
D. <u>Housing:</u>	
1. Data	VI
2. Re-Development of Bungalow Estates	VI
E. <u>Water Supplies:</u>	VII
F. <u>Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:</u>	
1. Sewerage	VII
2. Housing Site Works	VIII
3. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	VIII
4. Miscellaneous Matters	IX
Appendix	X
<u>REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR</u>	1
Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits	5
A. <u>Public Health - General:</u>	
1. Drainage	6
2. Public Conveniences	6
3. Water Supplies	7
4. Refuse Collection and Disposal	10
5. Salvage of Waste Paper	11
6. Caravan Sites	11
7. Atmospheric Pollution	12
8. Infectious Diseases	13
9. Ruinous and Dilapidated Buildings and Neglected Sites	13
10. Offensive Trades	13
11. Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare) Provisions Act, 1956	13
B. <u>Food and Drugs:</u>	
1. Food Premises	13
2. Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960	14
3. Food Sampling	15
4. Food Complaints	15
5. Condemned Food	16
6. Milk and Dairies	16
7. Ice Cream	17
8. The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963	17
9. Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards	17

/continued overleaf ...

	<u>Page:</u>
C. <u>Housing:</u>	
1. Improvement Areas 	18
2. Improvement of Houses outside Improvement Areas 	18
3. Improvement Grants 	19
4. Housing Advances 	19
5. Housing Action - Unfit Houses 	19
6. Housing Statistics 	19
7. Rent Act, 1957 	21
8. Houses in Multiple Occupation 	21
9. Common Lodging Houses 	21
D. <u>Factories, Offices, Shops, etc.</u>	
1. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 	21
2. Factories Act, 1961 	23
E. <u>Rodent Control:</u>	24
F. <u>Miscellaneous:</u>	
1. Petroleum Licensing 	25
2. Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957 	25
3. Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963 	25
4. Scrap Metal Dealers' Act, 1964 	25

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

C.L.Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Offices: Municipal Offices,
Monkton Park,
Chippenham.
Tel.No. Chippenham 2821, Ext.49.

Also: Medical Officer of Health for the:
Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury,
and
Rural District of Malmesbury.
Assistant County Medical Officer.
School Medical Officer.

Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health:

S.G.V.Williamson, Cert.R.I.P.H.H.

(b) CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

H.J.Taylor, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Offices: Bewley House,
Marshfield Road,
Chippenham.
Tel.No. Chippenham 2854, Ext.59.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.F.M.Howard, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

G.H.Murray, M.A.P.H.I.
W.J.Silvester, M.A.P.H.I.
G.Jones, M.A.P.H.I.

(c) COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL which are concerned
with matters of Public Health:

Public Health Committee
Housing Committee
Finance, Staff and General Purposes Committee.

These Committees meet monthly throughout the year. except
during August, and deal with all matters appertaining to
Public Health and Housing.

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REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1967, in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Great changes and improvements have taken place in the Rural District, particularly in the field of public health, since my appointment as your Medical Officer of Health on the 1st June 1938. I held a temporary appointment as Deputy Medical Officer of Health, whilst engaged in General Practice, from the 1st April 1925 to the 30th June 1925.

The population in the Rural District at the end of 1939 was 21,520, compared to the present estimate of 32,700. The number of inhabited houses was 5,604, it is now 8,607; the rateable value was then £95,720, it is now £915,663; and a penny rate product was £405, it is now £3,562.

The birth rate is 18.8 per 1000 of the population, compared to 12.1 in 1939; the death rate is now 9.6, compared to a rate of 11.2; and the death rate of infants under one year in 1939 was 59.7, it is now 11 per 1000 live births.

During 1939, 29 cases of Scarlet Fever, 26 cases of Diphtheria, 11 cases of Pneumonia, and 3 cases of Typhoid, occurred. During 1967, 4 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. There has not been a confirmed case of Diphtheria since 1945, due to the immunisation schemes introduced during the war. Poliomyelitis is now rarely seen since immunisation began, and the extension of Measles vaccination will still further reduce the amount of sickness in the child population.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis is not yet eradicated and it is essential that children are immunised against this infection when necessary, and that the adult population makes full use of the services of the Mass Radiography Unit whenever it is available.

Intestinal infections have, in the past, occupied the Public Health Department in detailed bacteriological and environmental investigations. Strict observance of personal hygiene is essential if these infections are to be prevented in the future.

The expectation of life has been raised and more of the population, particularly women, can now look forward to survival to at least three score years and ten - an infrequent event in the past.

The activities of the Council in providing good housing, adequate sewage disposal and refuse collection, a pure water supply, and supervision of the handling and distribution of food, have been major contributions to the present satisfactory state of the public health.

My thanks are due to the Council and its Officers for the unfailing courtesy I have always received during my long service as your Medical Officer of Health, and I leave with regret an appointment which I have found to be both interesting and stimulating.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	85,388
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	32,700
Number of inhabited dwellings, as at 1st April 1967	8,607
Number of Council dwellings, as at 1st April 1967	2,189
Number of applicants for Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1967	347
Rateable value, as at 1st April 1967	£ 915,663
Estimated product of Penny Rate, as at 1st April 1967	£ 3,562

B. VITAL STATISTICS.

1. BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Birth and Death Rates compared with other Areas.

(Births and deaths per 1000 population, standardised*)

	<u>Birth Rate:</u>		<u>Death Rate:</u>	
	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Calne and Chippenham Rural District	20.0	18.8	9.3	9.6
Chippenham Borough	16.9	15.6	10.7	11.6
Wiltshire	18.7	17.8	10.4	10.2
England and Wales	17.7	17.2	11.7	11.2

*Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar-General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Legitimate	285	264	549
Illegitimate	5	6	11
Totals:	<u>290</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>560</u>

There were 580 live births registered in the Rural District during 1966.

3. STILL BIRTHS.

Eleven still births were notified during 1967, a decrease of one over the total notified during 1966. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is 20. The rate for England and Wales is given by the Registrar-General as 14.8.

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Under one year	3	3	6
Under four weeks	1	2	3
Under one week	1	-	1
Infant Mortality Rate for the District	11.0 per 1000 live births		
Comparative Rate for England and Wales	18.3 per 1000 live births		

There was a slight increase in the Infant Mortality Rate for the District during 1967, by comparison with the previous year when the rate was 10.3. It should be borne in mind that the numbers involved from year to year are small, thus no conclusion can be drawn from such fluctuations.

5. DEATHS - ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	5	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	9	4	13
Malignant neoplasm, breast... ..	-	7	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus... ..	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	10	9	19
Leukaemia, aleukaemia... ..	2	-	2
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	13	19	32
Coronary disease, angina	42	16	58
Hypertension with heart disease... ..	2	1	3
Other heart disease	16	14	30
Other circulatory disease	4	2	6
Pneumonia	6	3	9
Bronchitis	8	1	9
Other diseases of respiratory system... ..	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	9	9	18
Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
All other accidents	2	7	9
Suicide	1	1	2
Totals:	133	108	241

Deaths due to cancer, coronary disease and heart disease collectively accounted for more than half the total deaths in the Rural District during 1967.

C. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

1. NOTIFICATIONS.

Notifiable diseases are those conditions defined in the appropriate Sections of Public Health legislation, and the number is limited.

At present, some notifiable diseases are largely of historic value, and much non-notifiable disease is of greater public health importance. Notification serves two main purposes: it is of epidemiological and statistical value to the Ministry of Health, the Registrar-General, and major authorities, and it is of immediate importance in the control of infectious disease among the local communities.

The following tables give details of cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, notified during the past four years:

<u>Disease:</u>	<u>1964</u>		<u>1965</u>		<u>1966</u>		<u>1967</u>	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
Scarlet fever	7	7	8	8	2	2	4	4
Whooping cough	44	44	3	3	4	4	10	10
Measles	128	128	498	498	190	190	350	350
Dysentery	40	40	9	9	100	77	42	36
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmonella infections	1	1	4	4	2	2	8	8
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Totals:-	223	222	522	522	298	275	421	415
(a) = Numbers originally notified.								
(b) = Final numbers, after correction.								

It will be seen from the above table that no cases of Poliomyelitis, Typhoid Fever, Para-Typhoid Fever, Smallpox, or Diphtheria have occurred during the four years covered by this table.

(a) Measles.

The year under review was undoubtedly a "measles year". The majority of cases occurred during the first quarter of the year, and affected children of school age.

(b) Dysentery.

In addition to sporadic cases in the District, two small outbreaks occurred:-

First Outbreak:

This was confined to a family at Langley Burrell. All members of the family were found to be bacteriologically positive. Routine preventive measures kept the infection to the family circle.

Second Outbreak:

During November and December, a few Service wives and their children became infected. Routine preventive measures, in conjunction with the Army Health Authority, limited the spread of infection.

(c) Salmonella Infections.

This organism, of which there are several hundred different types, is one of the causes of food poisoning. This fact is borne in mind when sporadic salmonella infections are investigated. No evidence was found that food was the vehicle of infection in the cases listed in the table.

(d) Food Poisoning.

The three cases of food poisoning shown in the table formed part of a small outbreak originating at one of the Calne schools.

Detailed investigations established beyond reasonable doubt that the illness had been caused by the consumption of frozen tongue supplied to the school kitchen. Specimens of this food and stool specimens from the patients confirmed growths of *Clostridium Welchii*, an organism belonging to the food poisoning group.

A full report on this outbreak has already been sent to the Ministry of Health in advance of this Annual Report.

2. TUBERCULOSIS.

Fourteen cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. All these cases were confirmed by the Chest Physician, ten were males, four were females. Investigation and completion of environmental reports are undertaken by the Public Health Department, whilst follow-up of contacts in each case is undertaken by the Chest Physician.

In addition to the new cases notified during the year, a small number of tuberculous persons either move into the District or move out. On the advice of the Chest Physician, some cases are removed from the Register as "recovered". According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the undermentioned notified and confirmed cases were living in the Rural District at the end of 1967:-

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Totals:</u>
Pulmonary	61	37	98
Non-Pulmonary	<u>17</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>42</u>
Totals:	<u>78</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>140</u>

There were 140 cases on the Register at the end of 1966.

D. HOUSING.

I am grateful to Mr.O.J.Baugh, the Council's Housing Manager, for the following information:-

1.
- (1)

Total number of applicants on list at 31st December 1967 ...

347
- (2)

Total number of applications received during 1967

162
- (3)

Total number of applicants rehoused:

(a)

In permanent houses, flats and retirement bungalows

75

(b)

In other accommodation

2
- (4)

Total number of applicants for retirement accommodation, included in (1) above

96
- (5)

Evicted families:

(a)

Number brought to notice... ..

15

(b)

Number rehoused

9
- (6)

Number of units of accommodation built and occupied during 1967:

(a)

By the Council:

Houses... ..

29

Flats

4

Retirement bungalows

15

48

(b)

By private enterprise

213
- (7)

Number of Council dwellings, as at 31st December 1967:

Permanent

1968

Temporary

169

2137

2. RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUNGALOW ESTATES.

(a) Boxfields.

The remaining 38 families have been moved to other accommodation, and the land has now been sold for agricultural use.

(b) Regis Estate, Corsham.

Development on this estate has been completed, and the 183 wartime bungalows have now been replaced by 134 houses, 27 flats and 18 maisonettes; 162 garages have also been provided.

(c) Community Centre Estate, Corsham.

The area to the north-west of Meadland Avenue has been completely cleared and the land sold for private development.

At the close of the year, 132 families were in occupation of bungalows at the lower end of the estate, and these were all that remained of the 1,000 which the Council took over from the Ministry in 1958.

Plans were made to build 28 houses in the Brunel Avenue area during the ensuing year.

E. WATER SUPPLIES.

In 1947, when the Council first set up an Engineering Department, they were responsible for the local water undertaking, and therefore some notes on this activity are included. The North Wilts Water Board took over the undertaking from the Council in 1962.

It was in 1947 that the Council adopted in principle proposals for extending a piped water supply to the whole of the District. The estimated cost then was £133,000. In fact, from 1947 to the date of transfer in 1962, the capital expenditure on the water undertaking was £278,496.

In 1947, there were 90 miles of mains and a piped supply was available to 46% of the inhabitants of the District. By 1962, the mileage of mains had increased to 190 miles and 96% of the population had a piped water supply.

As will be seen in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, a strict bacteriological surveillance is maintained on piped supplies to the public. Samples of the treated water in distribution to the public are, in addition, tested for the absence or presence of free chlorine, the North Wilts Water Board receiving a copy of these reports.

These routine tests are carried out by Officers of the Public Health Department. The Ministry of Health has recommended, for health reasons, that the reagent used in this test should be D.P.D. (diethyl paraphenylene diamine) instead of the usual Ortho-Tolidene.

F. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I am indebted to Mr.R.A.Witham, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information:-

1. SEWERAGE.

In the Appendix to this Report is set out a list of sewerage schemes to be carried out as approved by the Council in 1947, together with those added in 1959. Also shown is the state of progress made on the list. In 1947, the only parishes with a proper drainage system were Colerne, Corsham and Lacock. Since that date, modern systems of drainage have been provided for the parishes of Biddestone, Box, Castle Combe, Christian Malford, Grittleton, Kington Langley, Kington St.Michael, Sutton Benger, Yatton Keynell, and parts of Bremhill, Calne Without and Pewsham.

The percentage of houses in the District with main drainage is now 67%. There are of course, economic limits to the extent to which scattered development can be provided with this service and it appears unlikely that the figure will ever exceed about 85%.

The capital expenditure on sewerage schemes in the last twenty years is £661,453. It is anticipated that a further £332,000 will be required to complete the 1947 and 1959 programmes. In addition to this, the work to meet the growth of Colerne and Corsham, not included in the programme, is likely to be £216,000.

2. HOUSING SITE WORKS.

Roads, sewers and services for nearly 1,000 houses have been constructed in the last twenty years, the value of this work being £203,988. This figure excludes the smaller schemes where the site works have formed part of the building contract.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

(a) Schemes completed in 1967.

(i) North-Eastern Sewerage Scheme - Stage II.

Cost: £102,800.

Contractors: The Midland Excavators Ltd.

This is the final contract for this scheme, Stage I being completed last year. Some reinstatement work is still outstanding and will be completed during the maintenance period.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in the administration of this contract and it is regretted that considerable inconvenience was suffered by some owners of property and the general public. The exceptionally wet year did not make conditions any easier.

(ii) Pewsham Sewerage Scheme.

Cost: £11,728.

Contractors: Reg.Neal Ltd.

Between letting this contract and the commencement of the work, it was decided to extend the scheme and move the site of the pumping station. This decision caused a considerable disruption in the execution of the contract and some appreciable delay in completion. The work was, however, well executed and the final result is satisfactory.

(iii) Grittleton Sewerage Scheme.

Cost: £28,550.

Contractors: The Cradmin Co.Ltd.

This scheme covers the village of Grittleton and replaces a crude system of ditches with no disposal works. New works and an automatic pumping station have now been provided and at the end of the year most of the houses had been connected.

(b) Schemes under Construction in 1967.

All schemes under construction were completed by the end of the year.

(c) Schemes to be Commenced in 1968.

(i) Hardenhuish Sewerage Scheme.

Cost: £12,106.

Contractors: Smith and Lacy Ltd.

This scheme will provide drainage for the houses in Hardenhuish Lane and those in Malmesbury Road, from Yewstock to the Golf Links. Ministerial approval has been obtained and the work will commence early in the year.

(ii) Linleys and Gastard Sewerage Scheme.

Cost: £23,434.

Contractors: Smith and Lacy Ltd.

With the completion of this scheme, main drainage will have been provided for the whole of the parish of Corsham, to the limits of economic practicability. The proposals cover the houses at Linleys and Monks Lane, also Gastard Lane. Work is scheduled to commence early in 1968.

(d) Future Schemes authorised by the Council.

(i) South-Eastern Sewerage Scheme.

This scheme will cover Heddington, Sandy Lane, Stockley, Cherhill, Compton Bassett and Yatesbury. It was hoped this would have been submitted to the Council by the end of 1967, but field work was held up due to the potential danger of the spread of foot-and-mouth disease. If the ban on access to land is removed soon it should be possible to complete the design of this scheme and submit it to the Council early in 1968. The probable cost is in the order of £174,000.

(ii) Corsham Sewerage Scheme.

These proposals for improving the sewerage system and disposal works and to provide for future development have recently been approved by the Council and will be submitted to the Ministry in the near future. Estimated cost, £118,400.

(iii) Colerne Sewage Disposal Works.

These works are heavily overloaded with consequent deterioration in the quality of the effluent. Substantial work has been done on the design of this scheme and will be completed as soon as the two schemes referred to above have been submitted to the Ministry.

4. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

(a) Cesspool Emptying.

In November, the Council's cesspool emptying vehicle was involved in an accident, resulting in the virtual destruction of the vehicle. It is hoped to replace this early in 1968. In the meantime, a vehicle is being hired for essential work on the Council's own works and the co-operation of private companies obtained for the remainder of the work load.

(b) Trade Effluents.

No new trade effluents have been accepted during the year.

(c) Disposal of Waste.

Increasing concern is being expressed nationally at the problem of the disposal of waste matter. Disposal of domestic waste, both in the form of house refuse or sewage, is no new problem and the knowledge and facilities for dealing with it exist.

In the case of industrial waste, the tendency in the past has been for Local Authorities not to recognise that a problem exists. It is true that since 1937 Local Authorities have had powers and have been under some obligation to take trade effluent into the public sewers, but no similar provision exists for dealing with solid waste produced by industry. The main problem comes from sludges and waste material of that nature.

It is becomingly increasingly obvious that industry - especially small firms - cannot cope satisfactorily with this problem without some assistance from the Local Authority, and the time will probably come when they will be expected to provide disposal points for industrial sludge waste, and presumably charge for their use.

The Bristol Avon River Authority have taken the initiative in calling a meeting of interested parties - the River Authority, Local Authorities and Industry. As a result, a local Committee has been formed to investigate the problems and advise and make recommendations to the Local Authorities concerned.

The Council's Chemist-Manager, Mr. H. Hill, has been elected to represent the Rural District Councils on the Committee.

APPENDIX.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL.

<u>Name of Scheme:</u>	<u>Present Position:</u>	<u>Remarks:</u>
Corsham (reconstruction of sewers)	Completed.	Further work is now required.
Colerne.	Completed.	Extension of works now required.
Castle Combe.	Completed.	
Yatton Keynell.	Completed.	
Biddestone.	Completed.	
Box.	Completed.	
Kington St. Michael and Kington Langley.	Completed.	
Sutton Benger.	Completed.	
Christian Malford.	Completed.	
Cherhill.	Preliminary work done.	Part of South-Eastern Sewerage Scheme.
Hilmarton and Goatacre.	Completed.	
Grittleton.	Completed.	
East Tytherton and Bremhill.	Completed.	
Lacock (Reybridge, Notton and Bowden Hill)	Completed.	
Langley Burrell.	- - -	
Stanton St. Quintin.	- - -	
Compton Bassett.	Preliminary work done.	Part of South-Eastern Sewerage Scheme.
Heddington.	Preliminary work done.	Part of South-Eastern Sewerage Scheme.
North Wraxall.	- - -	
Pewsham.	Completed.	
Nettleton.	- - -	
Calne Without (Derry Hill and Studley)	Completed.	
Chippenham Without (Hardenhuish).	Contract let.	Will be completed in 1968.

Additional Schemes added in 1959:

Burton.	- - -	
Ford.	- - -	
Littleton Drew.	- - -	
West Kington.	- - -	
Yatesbury.	- - -	
	Preliminary work done.	Part of South-Eastern Sewerage Scheme.

R E P O R T

of the

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

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REPORT of the CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to make my contribution to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and to describe in some detail the activities of the Public Health Department during 1967.

The Report sets out to summarise the work of the department during the year and, for the benefit of the Members of the Council, I have endeavoured to explain some of the salient aspects of our work and to make a mass of figures more comprehensible.

Sewer Connections.

Marked progress has been made in ensuring that in the parishes where sewers have been laid, properties are connected to these sewers. The Council has already authorised the service of statutory notices in respect of certain properties belonging to owners who are reluctant to connect them to the sewers, or who are financially unable to proceed with such work. In the latter instances the Council will carry out the work in default and recover the cost through the Courts, or make a charge upon the property involved. The Council has not acted high-handedly in this matter; every attempt has been made to persuade owners to meet their obligations in this regard and only in the last resort has statutory action been taken. Many elderly persons in reduced financial circumstances have been helped by the Council in the provision of modern drainage and closet accommodation.

Stage II of the North-Eastern Sewerage Scheme, covering parts of Christian Malford along the main road to Dauntsey Lock, Foxham and East Tytherton, came into use during the year and already a number of properties in this most difficult drainage area are connected to the sewers.

The new sewerage scheme for Grittleton is well in hand and should be completed by early 1968. As most of the properties within the village of Grittleton are already connected to recognised sewers, these will be connected to the new sewers at the Council's expense.

Public Cleansing Service.

The Council has continued its researches into alternative methods of treatment and disposal of household refuse, which is becoming a matter of extreme urgency owing to the limited tipping facilities left available to the Council. At this stage in the proceedings the Council was joined in its enquiries by the Calne Borough Council and the Chippenham Borough Council, and in April a report was presented by the Treasurer on the capital and running costs of an Incineration Plant capable of dealing with refuse from all three authorities.

This report was adopted and the officers were instructed to discuss the project with officers of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. A meeting eventually took place and we were advised that our local proposals were unacceptable to the Minister in so far as they involved substantial capital investment in plant which could deal adequately with the amount of refuse produced in a single eight-hour shift, whereas the proper use of the plant would involve at least a sixteen-hour working day. A population of 100,000, producing 100 tons of refuse daily was necessary to support disposal by incineration.

Armed with this information, the Council recommended that every effort be made to encourage adjoining authorities to join in the scheme. It was known that certain other local authorities further south were experiencing similar difficulties with regard to refuse disposal and a conference at officer level was arranged to discuss this problem further.

This proved a fruitful conference, for the meeting reached the conclusion that a co-operative scheme was possible with a potential area giving an initial population of 96,000. Possible further additions included the participation of a large industrial undertaking which had an acute waste disposal problem. This response was encouraging and it was decided to obtain details and costs of an Incineration Plant capable of dealing with refuse from a population of 150,000 and to hold a further meeting when this information was to hand.

A further conference was held on the 13th December, which considered in detail the design, capital and running costs of an Incineration Plant capable of dealing with 160 tons of refuse per day.

It appeared likely that seven of the ten authorities would co-operate in a scheme but the officers present recognised the inevitability of an increase in the costs of refuse disposal by this means. The position was so encouraging that it was decided to hold another meeting at which local authorities would be represented by two members, and there the matter rests until this further meeting is held.

As the officer responsible for the operation of this essential service, I must confess that I am relieved that so much interest has been shown in this project and that a joint venture of this nature is a possibility and not a wild pipe dream.

Housing.

From time to time I have reported unfit houses situated in the parishes of Box, Calne Without, Corsham, Heddington, Hilmarton, Lacock and Pewsham to the appropriate Committee, and the decisions relating to these properties are summarised in the Housing Statistics referred to later in this Report.

The Council's housing policy for many years has slanted towards the improvement and repair of existing cottages, so as to retain a pool of well-maintained and improved cottages, let at reasonable rents. The success of this policy is reflected in the total number of cottages which have been improved or provided with the aid of discretionary or standard grants, which to date number 922. This is a considerable achievement, of which the Council can be justifiably proud.

There are still many houses in the Rural District capable of improvement and we in this department will press on with this valuable work until the last sub-standard cottage has been modernised.

The Gypsy Problem.

I regret I am unable to report any material progress in respect of the provision of suitable camping facilities. We have had correspondence with the County Council but still there has been no meeting to decide if, when, and where permanent sites should be built.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

The survey and registration of all shops and offices which come within the purview of this Act has been completed, and all contraventions have been remedied. All that is required now is to review these premises from time to time to see that the requirements of the Act are being met.

New Legislation.

Very little major public health legislation has been introduced in 1967, but the Civic Amenities Act 1967, Part III of which gives power to local authorities to deal with the disposal of abandoned vehicles and other refuse, is most welcome and timely.

The Act puts a responsibility upon local authorities to provide places where residents may deposit refuse, other than household refuse. Local authorities may accept business or industrial waste and may make a charge for its disposal. Space must also be provided for the reception and disposal of unroadworthy motor vehicles, and this Council has decided that such vehicles belonging to residents within the Rural District may be brought to the Sutton Benger refuse tip, to be disposed of by the Council free of charge.

The Council has been conscious for several years of its responsibility to extend its refuse collection and disposal service and the introduction four years ago of a twice-yearly bulky refuse collection has been much appreciated by householders. I am confident that this additional, yet vital, service has resulted in far less indiscriminate disposal of such material in the countryside.

The "litter lout" is still with us however, and the results of his thoughtlessness can be seen at the numerous lay-bys provided for the convenience of motorists and other travellers. Although litter receptacles are provided at many of such lay-bys, 50% of the litter is still thrown into the hedge or ditch at the back of the lay-by instead of into the receptacles and it is quite impossible to keep these areas free from litter, however conscientious one tries to be in this matter.

Conclusion.

All other aspects of the work of the department are referred to in the body of this Report. I would however, like to acknowledge the help given to me by my colleagues in the department in the compilation of the Report.

I would also like to thank the Council and Officials for their continued support and guidance, and particularly for all the advice and help given to me by the Medical Officer of Health. The continued improvement in the environmental services provided by the Council can only be achieved by the wholehearted co-operation of all departments of the Council.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS DURING 1967.

General.

Water supply	140
Drainage	720
Waste Foods Order	3
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	11
Caravans, tents, etc.	468
Factories	22
Outworkers	4
Public conveniences	142
Theatres, village halls, etc.	6
Refuse and salvage collection	192
Refuse disposal	144
Litter and abandoned vehicles	231
Rodent control	198
Infestations - flies, wasps, etc.	77
Atmospheric pollution	21
Schools	23
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act - General inspections	3
" " " " " " - Other inspections	26
Nuisances	129
Noise abatement	5
Knackers' yards	2
Petroleum and carbide of calcium	25
Miscellaneous visits	309

Housing.

No. of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	14	
Re-visits to above houses		39
No. of houses inspected under Housing Acts	45	
Re-visits to above houses		248
No. of houses inspected for overcrowding	6	
Re-visits to above houses		3
No. of houses inspected re improvements	207	
Re-visits to above houses		220
No. of filthy or verminous premises inspected	-	
No. of visits re housing advances		60

Sampling.

Water samples	764
Sewage effluent samples	-
Milk samples, bottle rinses, etc.	185
Ice cream samples	127
Food samples	37

Food.

No. of visits to:		
Butchers		39
Bakehouses		11
Fried fish shops		2
Licensed premises		71
Canteens, cafes, restaurants, etc.		40
Dairies and milk distributors		19
Poultry packing station		144
Grocers and general stores		91
Other food premises		19
Stalls, vehicles, etc.		47
Complaints		17
Miscellaneous visits		20

Infectious Diseases.

No. of enquiries in cases of infectious diseases		65
No. of miscellaneous visits re infectious diseases		66
	<u>272</u>	<u>5,284</u>

1. DRAINAGE.

(a) Sewer Connections.

The remaining properties with unsatisfactory drainage in Box have now been connected to the sewer, one being done in default. This completes the action to enforce connections in this area as all remaining properties with unsatisfactory drainage are being dealt with as unfit houses.

Connections to the Derry Hill, Pewsham, and Stage I of the North-Eastern Sewerage Schemes are well in hand and details of the numbers of properties without satisfactory drainage which remain to be connected are given below:-

<u>Area:</u>	<u>No. of properties to be connected:</u>
Derry Hill	3
Pewsham	2
Kington Langley	10
Kington St. Michael	1
Sutton Benger and Seagry	6
Christian Malford	8
Hilmarton	5
Goatacre	16

(b) Provision of Satisfactory Drainage.

Statutory notices were served on the owner/occupier of a cottage at Kingsdown, requiring her to provide a sink and water closet connected to the sewer. The work was carried out by the Council in default, and the cost has been made a charge on the property.

(c) Drainage Nuisance.

Complaints arising from overflowing septic tanks or other drainage nuisances at eleven premises have been dealt with during the year.

(d) Sampling of Effluents from Sewage Disposal Works.

All sampling of effluents from the Council's sewage disposal works is arranged by the Engineer and Surveyor, and carried out by Mr. Hill, Chemist at the Thingley sewage disposal works.

2. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Amenities.

When public conveniences were first opened in this area, toilet paper and holders were provided, but the rate of pilfering and wanton damage was so excessive that this was given up. Lately, a re-issue has been tried at Box conveniences and, as a result, toilet paper will again be supplied to other conveniences during the coming year.

Hot air hand-driers have been installed at Castle Combe for two years without trouble. Similar machines will, I hope, be installed at Box in the new year, and at Corsham and Lacock when the new conveniences are constructed.

Box, Castle Combe and Colerne.

The public conveniences at Box, Castle Combe and Colerne have been satisfactorily maintained and have received little damage during the year.

Corsham.

I have been fortunate during the year in obtaining the services of a first-class attendant for the conveniences at Post Office Lane and Station Road, Corsham, and the standard of cleanliness has greatly improved. Since they have been properly looked after, there has been a noticeable reduction in vandalism.

Both buildings are below the standard now expected of public conveniences, but while the replacement of those in Post Office Lane has to await redevelopment of Corsham Central Area, negotiations are well in hand for the replacement of the Station Road conveniences by new ones in a corner of Grove Field.

Lacock.

Provision of modern conveniences has been deferred during the current financial year, but I very much hope that work will be put in hand in 1968. Complaints are regularly received about the standard of accommodation and cleanliness of the conveniences available for visitors. These conveniences receive considerable use from visitors, and abuse from the local youth, and I hope that it will be possible to make the new building vandal-proof and easily-cleaned.

3. WATER SUPPLIES.

Almost all of the water supplied to the district is provided by the North Wilts Water Board, with the Bristol Waterworks supplying a small area at Burton. The Buxted Chicken Company obtains water from its own boreholes for its poultry packing station at Sutton Benger.

Freeth Farm, Compton Bassett.

During the summer a two-inch mains supply was taken to this community of three cottages and farmhouse. For no known reason the original well supply had become completely unreliable. The length of pipe required was nearly one mile, and it was necessary for the Council to guarantee £169 per annum for the next twelve years. Agreement was amicably reached between the Council and the farmer, whereby the farmer paid £69 (more in the unlikely event of the metered charge exceeding this figure) and the Council paid not more than £100.

Extension of Supply to Clevancy and Corton, Hilmarton.

This work is now in hand but, due to delays by the Ministries concerned in dealing with applications for agricultural grant and loan sanction, it was not started until December.

Messrs.Harris's Supply.

During the year, Messrs.C.& T.Harris (Calne) Ltd. ceased to use their deep bore at Langley Burrell. This meant that the North Wilts Water Board had to feed in their own water to the old Harris's pipe as an emergency measure, to supply the two farms and three cottages which are connected to this main.

There have been justifiable complaints of offensive smell from the water, although the bacteriological results showed no pollution.

The North Wilts Water Board will be laying a new main through Stanley to meet the needs of the households affected.

Adequacy of Water Supplies.

The only complaints of inadequate water supply during the year came from the Hither Farm area of Pewsham, which was formerly served by a private supply. This supply has now failed and the North Wilts Water Board are to extend their mains to this area.

From time to time two properties in Kingsdown, near the reservoir, are without water and this is mainly due to lack of pressure, the two properties being situated only a few feet below the top water level of the reservoir. As soon as the water level drops below a certain point, these houses are without water.

The North Wilts Water Board is fully aware of the position and has proposals for bringing a new supply from Monkton Farleigh, which will increase the pressure within the water mains throughout the whole of the Kingsdown area and thereby overcome the present shortage.

Contamination.

On following up unsatisfactory reports of samples taken during routine sampling at Burton, complaints were received of discoloured water and frequent shortages of supply. These complaints were referred to the Bristol Waterworks Company, who carried out a survey of the area and discovered several serious leaks. They also arranged for regular flushing of the mains, since when there have been no further complaints.

Other unsatisfactory reports were followed up, but no significant contamination was found.

Routine samples for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis of untreated water are taken by the Water Boards from the various sources. All water supplied by the Water Boards is chlorinated.

Six houses, previously served by polluted private supplies, have been connected to the mains during the year.

Sampling.

Bacteriological samples of treated water as supplied to the consumers, are taken by this department. At the beginning of the year the sampling routine was altered to ensure a more comprehensive coverage of the district, and weekly samples are now taken from the principal supplies.

The results tabulated below are set out to show "Suspect" samples, where slight contamination by non-faecal organisms is recorded, and "Unsatisfactory", where coliform bacilli are present. In the event of an "Unsatisfactory" report being received from the Laboratory the Water Board is informed and a further sample taken without delay.

Analysis of Reports on Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination by this Department:

		<u>Satisfactory:</u>	<u>Suspect:</u> (Non-faecal coliforms present):	<u>Unsatisfactory</u> (Faecal type coliforms present):
<u>Weekly Samples:</u>				
Bristol Waterworks:	Burton	38	7	2
Calstone:	Theobalds Green	44	-	1
Cherhill:	Yatesbury	40	3	-
Chippenham:	Bowden Hill	43	1	-
	Fiveways	41	3	-
Rodbourne:	Stanton St. Quintin	42	-	-
Washwells:	Market Place, Box	45	1	-
Widdenham:	Bargates, Box	42	2	2
Mixed sources:	Castle Combe	43	2	-
	Christian Malford	41	1	+
	Colerne	45	1	-
	Corsham, Bath Road	44	1	-
	Hilmarton	41	3	-
	Marshfield Reservoir	34	6	1
	Nettleton, Horsdown	34	8	-
	West Kingston	41	3	1

	<u>Satisfactory:</u>	<u>Suspect:</u> (Non-faecal coliforms present):	<u>Unsatisfactory:</u> (Faecal type coliforms present):
<u>Monthly Samples:</u>			
Compton Bassett	12	2	-
Draycot Cerne, Sutton Benger	11	-	-
East Tytherton, Bremhill	12	-	-
Foxham, Bremhill	12	1	-
Grittleton	11	-	-
Langley Burrell (Harris's)	2	-	-
Neston, Corsham	11	-	-

Totals of Samples taken:

Public supplies	729	45	7
Private supplies	10	2	5

Sampling by the North Wilts Water Board:

The Engineer to the Water Board has kindly given me the following results of bacteriological examination and chemical analysis of samples taken by the Board.

(a) Summary of Reports of Bacteriological Examination of Samples of Water taken from Consumer's Supply Points in Calne and Chippenham Area:

1st April 1967 to 29th February 1968:

774 samples were examined
 731 were satisfactory (coliform counts of less than 1)
 28 had counts of 1-2 coliforms
 15 had counts of 3 and more coliforms.

Generally, check samples of those reported with counts proved negative.

Summary of reports of raw water samples from sources:

1st April 1967 to 29th February 1968:

<u>Source:</u>	<u>No. of Samples:</u>	<u>Less than 1</u>	<u>Coliform Counts:</u>		
			<u>1 - 3</u>	<u>4 - 10</u>	<u>10 and more</u>
Widdenham	47	10	13	15	9
Nettleton	15	15	-	-	-
Chippenham	45	37	5	3	-
Goodshill	44	37	6	1	-
Washwells	46	17	15	10	4

(b) Chemical Analyses of Raw Water of the Sources are done in rota during the year and the following reports have been received.

Redbourne: Chippenham: Washwells: Goodshill: Widdenham:

Turbidity (Silica scale)	Nil	Nil	Less than 3	Nil	Less than 1
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.2	7.0	7.6	7.2	7.5
E. Conductivity	580	630	350	550	570
Total solids (p.p.m.)	450	455	250	390	410
Hardness total	320	360	195	325	295
Non-carbonates	70	85	50	55	65
Carbonates	250	275	145	270	230
CO ₂	35	46	8	38	15
Chlorides	40	26	26	21	14
Amn'cal Nitrogen	0.03	0.08	0.03	0.07	0.02
Oxygen absorbed	0.10	0.20	0.10	0.02	0.00
Iron	0.06	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Lead	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	0.70	0.60	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent

These waters are not plumbo-solvent, being relatively "hard" waters, with a high degree of permanent hardness.

4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(a) Refuse Collection.

Frequency of collections has remained the same as in 1966, mainly because of financial restrictions, but this will also allow the Work Study Consultants time to carry out their proposed investigations and advise us as to the best ways of improving the service.

In July a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection. The main recommendations which would affect our working if they were to be adopted are:-

- (i) weekly collection, at least, from all areas;
- (ii) back-door collection;
- (iii) refuse receptacles at residential premises to be provided by the local authority;
- (iv) use of either the continental dustless loading or "paper-sack" system of storage and collection.

The Sub-Committee's recommendation that no change be made in frequency of collection for the time being, but that a pilot scheme for "paper-sack" collection from 500 dwellings be put into effect next year, was adopted by the Council. It is intended that polythene sacks having the capacity of a large dustbin be issued to householders in the trial areas.

The labour force remains the same as before and consists of one working foreman, one tip attendant, four loader-drivers, ten ashbinmen, and one man engaged full-time on baling waste paper. Maintenance of the force has been easier this year and replacements have been found for the four men who left and the one who was dismissed.

The public is indebted to these men, who carry out an arduous task in all weathers.

The Council's fleet of vehicles now includes:-

One - Bedford 12 cu.yd.	(side-loader)	purchased 1959
One - Shelvoke & Drewry 18 cu.yd.	(with power-press)	" 1961
One - " " " 35 cu.yd.	(compression-type)	" 1963
One - " " " 35 cu.yd.	" "	" 1964
One - " " " 35 cu.yd.	" "	" 1965

(b) Refuse Disposal.

I have referred to the shortage of suitable tipping space for household, trade and industrial waste, in the preface to this Report, and it was prudent of the Council to start exploring for alternative methods of treatment and disposal some four years ago.

By the end of 1967 a valuable tipping site in the gravel pits at Lower Seagry had been filled and the whole tipped area covered with eighteen inches of soil ready for cultivation and restoration to useful grassland. The old quarry near Colerne is almost full, and soon household refuse from the Colerne area will have to be taken to Grittleton, the only remaining refuse tip west of Chippenham.

The two other tips are at Sutton Benger and at Sands Farm, Calne Without, where it seems just possible that there will be tipping space for another four years.

(c) Supply of Dustbins.

We maintain a stock of dustbins for sale to householders at cost price plus a small delivery charge. No systematic check of dustbins in use has been made this year.

(d) The Litter Problem.

This continues to be with us. I think it would be true to say that, due to the bulky refuse collections, there is less deliberate dumping of unwanted articles, but casual littering of the countryside continues. In particular, some private motorists and commercial vehicle drivers delight in throwing litter around lay-bys. Bins are provided by the Wilts County Council at all lay-bys on main roads and these are regularly emptied by this department. Finding time to clear up litter thrown on adjacent verges and hedgerows is often difficult and it is impossible to keep all lay-bys as tidy as I would like.

Warning letters have been sent on occasions when we have had reason to suspect who the culprit was, but we have not been able to obtain sufficient evidence for a prosecution.

Real improvement can only come with the wholehearted co-operation of the general public and I would like to appeal to everyone to be more thoughtful in not leaving litter behind them and to report all cases where they see litter or rubbish being dumped.

(e) Civic Amenities Act 1967.

This Act requires local authorities to provide places where refuse, other than trade refuse, may be deposited free-of-charge by residents in the area of the authority. We have always accepted such refuse by arrangement at our tips and I do not expect these provisions to make any appreciable demands on the available tipping space.

It is now an offence to abandon anything on any land in the open air and the penalty for a first offence can be a fine of up to £100.

Provisions relating to the removal and disposal of motor vehicles are strengthened and extended to provide for the removal and disposal of vehicles abandoned on any land in the open air. We are fortunate in not having, at present, a great problem with the disposal of old vehicles and I hope that this legislation will enable us to deal effectively with future problems.

5. SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

The lease of an existing building on land formerly let with Pickwick Lodge Farm, Corsham, and the purchase of a new and slightly larger collection vehicle, together with the purchase of an improved baling machine, has resulted in the collection of a further 30 tons of waste paper and the almost complete elimination of overtime for the employee baling the waste paper. What overtime is needed is due to the use of this man on other work during holiday periods and when the service is understaffed through illness.

Unfortunately, the revenue from the sale of waste paper does not increase, due to reduction in the selling price from time to time. At present the Council receives £6.10.0. per ton, two years ago the price was £7.15.0. per ton.

The Government exhorts local authorities to salvage waste paper so as to save money on the cost of importing raw wood pulp and I feel that local authorities should be guaranteed a fair price for this vital commodity.

6. CARAVAN SITES.

(a) Private Caravan Sites.

The number of licensed sites remains the same as for last year, although some new sites have been licensed and some have been discontinued. Temporary licences for two sites at Cherhill and one at Colerne have been issued.

One medium-sized caravan site at Colerne for 22 caravans has caused me some concern for a variety of reasons.

A number of rather ancient and dilapidated caravans on this site are occupied by "welfare" families and it is next-to-impossible to secure improved conditions to the caravans and to the surroundings. Drainage problems have occurred from time to time when the public sewer, into which the drainage from the caravan site discharges, becomes blocked and frequent rodding is required.

I am hoping to persuade the owner gradually to run down the site but this can only be accomplished if the Council assists by re-housing some of the families on the site.

Total Number of Current Licences:

<u>Parish:</u>	<u>No. of Licences:</u>	<u>No. of Caravans:</u>
Box	4	34
Bremhill	4	4
Calne Without	1	1
Cherhill	2	2
Christian Malford	1	2
Colerne	4	25
Corsham	2	3
Hilmarton	3	3
Kington Langley	2	2
Lacock	1	1
North Wraxall	1	1
Pewsham	1	1
Sutton Benger	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals:	<u>28</u>	<u>81</u>

(b) Sites Provided by the Council.

All sites have been fully occupied during the year, although the lack of applicants early in the year led me to obtain authority to advertise vacancies if necessary. It was only necessary to do this once, in the case of a vacancy at Sutton Benger. At present there is a waiting list for the Northleaze site only.

In April it became necessary to increase the licence fee for all sites except Goatacre by 2/6d. to £1.2.6. per week.

A public telephone booth has been installed at the Northleaze site at Corsham at the request of the occupiers and an additional 3d. per week is charged in order to recover the capital expenditure.

The provision of electric space heaters at the various communal toilet blocks has proved a boon, as no problems associated with frozen pipes have been experienced during the winter months.

The sites provided by the Council are:-

Northleaze, Corsham	-	64	standings
Yatton Keynell	-	11	"
Sutton Benger	-	12	"
Goatacre, Hilmarton	-	5	"

7. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Westwells Crushing Plant, Corsham, which has been a cause for continual complaint over the past twenty years, is now closed and the equipment dismantled.

No complaints have been received during this year.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1967 enquiries were made into the following cases of infectious disease:-

Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	3
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	31
Salmonella...	...	...	...	...	11
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	11
Smallpox (contacts)	...	...	...	...	3
Paratyphoid (contacts)	...	...	...	...	1

Eleven of the dysentery cases occurred in an Army Families Hostel, where there were some 200 children, accommodated in close quarters. It is a credit to the Camp personnel that this was not a major outbreak.

Of the salmonella cases dealt with, three were investigated on behalf of Bath Public Health Department as they were concerned with an outbreak in that city.

9. RUINOUS AND DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS AND NEGLECTED SITES.

It has been necessary for me to approach the owner of a building in Colerne to carry out essential repair work to walls and main roof of a large building behind No.8, Market Place, Colerne, which had become potentially dangerous.

By the end of the year I had not achieved any progress in the repair of the property because of a change of ownership and a complication due to the submission of various town planning applications for development of the site and building. I am watching the situation closely.

10. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in this district which come within the provisions of Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936.

11. AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) PROVISIONS ACT 1956.

No complaints have been received from employees with reference to unsatisfactory sanitary facilities at farms or market garden premises and it has not been possible to make routine inspections due to pressure of other work.

I cannot understand why local authorities should have been made responsible for seeing that adequate closet accommodation was available on farms whilst the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have the duty of enforcing the provision of hand-washing facilities. Surely, it would have been sensible for one or other of the authorities to have been responsible for enforcing both provisions of the Act, thus avoiding the need for two separate officials to visit farm premises for almost identical purposes.

B. FOOD AND DRUGS.

1. FOOD PREMISES.

Poultry Packing Station, Sutton Benger.

A total of 144 visits was made to this factory during the year. Conditions in the main were very satisfactory and it was necessary only to draw attention to occasional matters. There is little to add to last year's report except that during 1967 there have been considerable alterations and extensions to anticipate an ever-rising demand for frozen ready-to-cook broilers.

The year's throughput was 7,013,254, from which there were 4,734 rejected carcasses, representing a condemnation rate of only 0.07%. Although the number of 4,734 does not include the dead-on-arrival or the rejected portions (mainly damaged or bruised), it is nevertheless an extremely small percentage and signifies a highly satisfactory situation.

The chickens on the line and in the cooling room are inspected as a matter of routine every time a visit is made. It speaks well for the factory routine when I say that at no time was it necessary for a Public Health Inspector to reject anything that the factory had passed.

Licensed Premises.

Improvement of these premises is proceeding steadily, if slowly. Five public houses have been improved during the year and work on three others has been deferred until 1968 because of the present financial restrictions.

One public house at Box has been closed, the number of licensed premises in the district now being sixty.

Bakehouses.

Modernisation of the Bremhill bakehouse has not yet been completed, due, partly, to a change of plan in the building.

The number of bakehouses in this district is seven, the same as last year, situated at:-

Bremhill	...	...	...	...	1
Castle Combe	...	...	...	...	1
Cherhill	...	...	...	...	1
Colerne	...	...	...	...	1
Corsham	...	...	...	...	3

Fried Fish Shops.

There are two fish-and-chip shops in the district, at Colerne and Corsham.

2. FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960.

The food premises within the Rural District consist of:-

Premises:	No.:	No.complying with Regn.16 (wash-basins provided):	No.of premises to which Regn.19 (facilities for washing food and equipment):-	
			(a) applies:	(b) is complied with:
Grocers and General Stores	73	73	31	31
Butchers	10	9	10	9
Bakers	7	7	7	7
Restaurants and Cafes	11	11	10	10
Fish and Fruit Shops	7	7	4	4
Fish-and-Chip Shops	2	2	2	2
Sweets and Ices Shops	13	13	-	-
Licensed Premises	60	60	60	60
Factories and Distributors	2	2	1	1
	185	184	125	124

3. FOOD SAMPLING.

During the year, 38 samples of cooked meat were taken. It is of comfort to note that they were all negative in respect of salmonella and staphylococcus aureus (food poisoning organisms). Most were negative also for coliforms but ten were positive in varying degree. The presence of these is indicative of unwanted contamination through imperfect handling and each case was taken up with the retailers and, where necessary, the producers.

Following an exceedingly high plate count on one sample of ham, a repeat sample of the same product gave a similar result. The ham was produced outside this district and the Food Authority in the district concerned was notified. They have taken up the matter with the manufacturer, to improve his production methods. Unfortunately our retailer has given up sale of this line, so we are unable to ascertain the result of this exercise.

No-one expects to receive sterile food when it has been exposed and cut and there is nothing unusual or undesirable in the presence of reasonable numbers of harmless bacteria. These numbers are estimated on a "plate count". There are no official standards in respect of such foods, but from experience it would appear that a total count of 1,000,000 or less per gramme could be regarded without anxiety and above this as becoming undesirable, but this is purely a matter of opinion.

There has been a great variation in the counts, from as low as 6,400, all the way through to the astronomical. There are actually two plate counts for each sample, one being incubated at 22°C and the other at 37°C. The undisputed record-holder of the year was a sample of sliced pressed beef, which showed a fascinating picture of the 22's and 37's racing neck-and-neck to a photo-finish of 750,000,000 each.

Something which became apparent as a result of the sampling programme is the widespread practice of using the same slicer alternately, as and when required, for both cooked meats and raw bacon. This is a questionable practice, and if customers of small village shops which cannot provide two machines are to be able to have their meat sliced while they wait, a code of practice for cleansing the machine between changes from uncooked to cooked meat is required. The alternative would be to restrict sales of all but one meat product to pre-sliced and pre-packed foods.

4. FOOD COMPLAINTS.

A variety of complaints from members of the public regarding food were dealt with during the year, including a stain in bread, mould in a tin of meat, and a pin in a pot of marmalade. These complaints were taken up with the firms concerned and satisfactory explanations received.

Proceedings were not considered appropriate in these cases, as I was satisfied from the reports of investigations made and measures to be taken that the manufacturers were doing everything they could to produce a satisfactory product and that prosecution would serve no useful purpose.

In the case of a complaint of a mouldy cooked chicken supplied by a public house, it seemed, after consultation with the Public Health Laboratory, that there was an element of doubt and that the mould did not necessarily mean that the conditions under which this food was produced were as bad as they at first appeared. Because of this, no prosecution was made, but we were able to use the occurrence to secure improvements in the kitchen which, as is so often the case, was not adequate for the trade done.

5. CONDEMNED FOODS.

During the year the following foodstuffs were examined by the Public Health Inspectors, found to be unfit, and subsequently surrendered:-

18 cwts.	potatoes	...	...	diseased
3 x 10 lbs.	tinned ham	...	...	defective tins
2 x 3½ lbs.	tinned pork	...	...	punctured tins
20 lbs.	chicken	...	...	unsound

6. MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) Registration of Dairies and Licensing.

The number of registered dairies has again fallen slightly and the number of registered distributors has increased. Seventy-six routine visits have been made to dairies in the district.

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
No. of registered dairies	10	11
No. of registered distributors ...	24	21

The Dealers' licences to sell designated milk in this district are for:-

<u>Designation:</u>	<u>No. of Licences:</u>
Untreated milk	1
Pasteurised milk	21
Sterilised milk	6
Ultra-Heat-Treated milk ...	1

Four producer-retailers retail untreated milk in this district and these are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Ultra-heat-treated milk has been treated by the ultra-high temperature method, whereby it is maintained at a temperature of not less than 270°F for not less than one second.

(b) Milk Sampling for Statutory Examination.

Monthly samples from distributors licensed by this Council are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath. The reports on these samples were as follows:-

Satisfactory	212
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Void (shade temperature at Laboratory exceeded prescribed maximum) ...	3

(c) Milk Sampling for Biological Examination.

In addition to routine sampling for the statutory keeping quality tests, twenty-three sets of churn samples were taken from producers who supply untreated milk to retailers in the district. This is a reduction compared with last year and was due to the restriction of movement onto farms imposed during the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. None of these samples showed the presence of tuberculosis or brucella abortus.

In addition to these tests, all samples of untreated milk taken for statutory test were examined for the presence of brucella abortus, with negative results.

(d) Tuberculosis and Brucellosis.

In June we learned, via the County Medical Officer of Health, that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Veterinary Officers had found reactors to the tuberculin test in six herds in part of the district

We immediately made enquiries to see that no untreated milk from these herds was being sold to the public. There did not appear to have been any risk to the public, which was just as well since the reactors had been found and slaughtered several months before we were advised of the matter!

When a report indicating brucella infection of milk is received we take the necessary steps to ensure that all milk from the herd containing the infected animal is heat-treated and, in the few cases we have had since the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959, came into force, we have had excellent co-operation from the milk producers concerned. Other authorities have not been so fortunate, and we were involved in a case where, on learning that one of his cows was giving infected milk, the farmer sold the affected cow, with another one, at a neighbouring market. One of these cows was bought by a farmer in this district but because of the unco-operative attitude of the vendor, it took a fortnight to discover that the infected cow had been bought by another dealer and slaughtered.

Although a notice under the Milk and Dairies Regulations had been served on the former owner, requiring him to pasteurise milk from his herd, there is no control over the sale of infected animals and, had the cow been bought for milk production, infected milk might have been sold to the public during the time it took to follow the animal's movements.

(e) Bottle Rinses.

Sets of milk bottles are sent to the Laboratory every quarter to check the efficiency of bottle-washing at dairies where milk is bottled. All of the fifteen sets examined gave satisfactory results.

(f) Complaints.

A complaint from a resident, of cement in a milk bottle, was investigated. The bottle came from a dairy outside the district and was the first complaint we had had regarding this dairy for at least fifteen years. The Inspector for the district concerned spoke very highly of the firm and a warning letter was sent to the Manager.

7. ICE CREAM.

There are now eighty-eight premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and some vans selling "soft ices" tour the district. The standard of hygiene in these premises and vans has been satisfactory, and the results of routine samples taken during the past three years are:-

<u>Grade:</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>
I	114	94	81
II	3	10	4
III	Nil	Nil	Nil
IV	Nil	Nil	Nil

These excellent results show that a high standard in manufacture, distribution and storage is maintained. For satisfactory standards to be achieved, it is expected that at least 50% of all samples taken during the year will fall into Grade I, 80% into Grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III, and none into Grade IV. Our results come well above this recommended standard.

8. THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in this district.

9. SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS.

There are no slaughterhouses in this district. The licence for the knackers' yard at Heddington has again been renewed, following a satisfactory report on conditions there. Sixteen horses were slaughtered, all on farms, and a total of twenty-three carcasses was received at the knackers' yard. Six slaughtermen's licences have been issued, all to men employed at the knackers' yard at Heddington.

C. HOUSING.

1. IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

(a) Priory Street, Corsham.

The state of progress in improving houses in this area is as follows:-

Houses improved	...	...	...	...	...	9
Improvements in progress	...	...	...	...	...	6
Suspended Improvement Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	4

One house, owned by an elderly lady who is unable to cope with the business of improving it, is to be bought and improved by the Council.

On reviewing the operation of this procedure for improving a defined area, it appears that we included too much of Priory Street, with the result that it was impracticable to apply these provisions to some of the older houses. This legislation was primarily designed to enable large urban authorities to bring whole terraces of houses up to standard. For them the procedure is cumbersome but straightforward, as one specification and estimate will, with minor adaptations, serve for hundreds of houses. We found that, apart from fifteen houses owned by the Corsham Estate, each house had to be treated individually.

This was the first improvement area to be declared in the Western Region, and in July we were visited by officials from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, who wanted to see how we were getting on. We were then able to demonstrate the difficulties we encountered and suggest amendments which would enable us to deal more easily with improvement areas.

(b) Grittleton and Foscote.

A preliminary survey of houses in the village of Grittleton and Foscote showed that of thirty-six houses lacking amenities, it should be possible to improve thirty-three to the "full standard". It has therefore been decided to declare this an improvement area.

2. IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES OUTSIDE IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

The provisions of the Housing Act 1964, which enable a tenant to require his landlord to improve his house, do not appear to be sufficiently well-known and, of the enquiries we have received, only one has been followed up. This seems to be due to the paralysing effects of over-long rent control, which has made both tenant and landlord reluctant to break the established pattern of wanting to pay and to provide as little as possible.

In one case, after eighteen months and a considerable amount of work on our part, the tenant of a good terraced house decided that he would be willing to pay a rent of 22/6d. per week for it when repaired and improved, and we were able to pursue the matter with the owner.

I would like more tenants to ask their landlords to improve their houses and, if necessary, to seek our help in doing so. The tenant must, of course, be prepared to pay increased rent but under the provisions of the Housing Act 1964, this increase is controlled. There must be many houses which could be improved to Council house standard, and where the resulting rent would not approach that of a Council house.

From the landlord's point of view, the money can usually be borrowed from the Council and the increased rent will cover the mortgage repayments and also allow something more towards the cost of maintenance.

3. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

During the year ninety houses have been improved or provided with the aid of discretionary or standard grants, and the total number to date is 922. This is our highest annual figure so far and we hope to see the improvement of our 1,000th house in 1968.

As the figures given below show, we have maintained steady progress with discretionary grants during the past thirteen years and the introduction of standard grants in 1959 has resulted in the improvement of a substantial number of houses which, for various reasons, could not be brought up to the standard required for discretionary grants.

Dwellings Improved or Provided by Conversion:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Discretionary Grants:</u>	<u>Standard Grants:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
To 1954	17		17
1955	54		54
1956	71		71
1957	59		59
1958	37		37
1959	44		44
1960	47	31	78
1961	47	39	86
1962	32	31	63
1963	48	40	88
1964	48	31	79
1965	42	40	82
1966	30	44	74
1967	49	41	90

4. HOUSING ADVANCES.

Due no doubt, to the Government's financial restrictions and the present interest rates, we have had rather less to do in connection with housing advances. Fourteen houses have been repaired or improved in compliance with undertakings given by mortgagors.

5. HOUSING ACTION - UNFIT HOUSES.

Most of the housing action taken this year resulted from inspections made for the purpose of getting properties connected to the new sewerage systems. Our efforts have been directed towards the improvement of houses where possible and we have resorted to statutory action only when houses were found to be unfit and the owners were unwilling to repair them.

6. HOUSING STATISTICS.

(a) Details of Dwellings at the end of the year:

No. of permanent dwellings privately owned	...	...	...	...	...	6700
" " " " local authority owned	...	...	...	...	...	1968
" " temporary " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	169

(b) Proceedings under Housing Act 1957:

Houses inspected for fitness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
No. reported as unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Notices served requiring defects to be remedied (Secs.9,10)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses made fit after service of formal notices:-									
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
(b) by local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Demolition Orders made (Sec.16)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
" " " " " " informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Demolition Order revoked, house made fit (Sec.24)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
War-time bungalows demolished by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Undertakings not to re-let accepted (Sec.16)....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Undertakings not to re-let which became operative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Undertakings to make fit accepted (Sec.16)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Undertakings to make fit complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Closing Orders made (Secs.17,18)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Part of dwelling closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Closing Order revoked, house made fit (Sec.27)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses in Clearance Areas on which Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Retained as temporary accommodation in Clearance Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Overcrowded houses at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " " abated " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Houses inspected for defects under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Formal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal notices:-									
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
(b) by local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

(d) Improvement Grants - Discretionary:

		1967	1966
Applications received for conversions	(houses)	5	2
" " improvements	(")	47	53
Approvals for conversion of owner/occupied property	(")	3	1
" " " other	" (")	1	2
" " improvement of owner/occupied	" (")	25	32
" " " other	" (")	11	23
Amount of grants approved for conversions		£1,600	£1,200
" " " " " improvements		£14,032	£20,641
No. of applications made during the year which were refused or withdrawn	...	3	-
No. of grants completed		49	30
Amount of grants paid		£18,050	£10,466
No. of premises inspected re Improvement Grants and Improvement Areas	...		180

(e) <u>Improvement Grants - Standard:</u>	1967	1966
Applications received (houses)	38	51
" approved - owner/occupied property ... (")	24	31
- other " ... (")	21	10
No. of applications made during the year which were refused or withdrawn ... (")	1	4
No. of houses improved	41	44
Amount of grants paid	£7,216	£7,836
No. of baths or showers provided	38	37
" " wash-basins "	36	38
" " water closets "	40	41
" " hot water supplies "	37	38
" " food stores "	26	36

7. RENT ACT 1957.

No applications have been received from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair and action by the Council.

8. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

I know of only one property, at Pickwick Road, Corsham, which comes within the provisions of Part II of the Housing Act 1961. Now that two basement rooms have been closed, this accommodation is satisfactory. No overcrowding has been noted.

9. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No common lodging houses are registered in this district.

D. FACTORIES, OFFICES, SHOPS, ETC.

1. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

(a) Registrations and Inspections.

Class of Premises:	No. of premises registered during the year.	Total no. of registered premises at the end of the year:	No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year:
Offices	1	34	2
Retail shops	-	73	1
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	17	-
Fuel storage depots	-	2	-
Totals:	1	128	3

The total number of visits of all kinds by Public Health Inspectors to registered premises during 1967 was twenty-nine.

(b) Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace:	No. of persons employed:
Offices	212
Retail shops	236
Wholesale departments, warehouses	40
Catering establishments open to the public	68
Canteens	7
Fuel storage depots	8
Total:	571
.....	
Total males:	265
Total females:	306

(c) Exemptions.

Part I: Space (Section 5(2))	...	...	...	...	Nil
Part II: Temperature (Section 6)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Part III: Sanitary conveniences (Section 9)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Part IV: Washing facilities (Section 10)	...	...	...	...	Nil

(d) Contraventions.

Contraventions in respect of:	Found:	Remedied:
Sec. 4: Cleanliness	-	-
" 5: Overcrowding	-	-
" 6: Temperature	2	2
" 7: Ventilation	1	1
" 8: Lighting	-	-
" 9: Sanitary conveniences	2	2
" 10: Washing facilities	2	2
" 11: Supply of drinking water	-	-
" 12: Accommodation for clothing	1	1
" 13: Sitting facilities	-	-
" 14: Seats for sedentary workers	-	-
" 15: Eating facilities	-	-
" 16: Floors, passages, stairs	3	2
" 17: Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-	-
" 18: Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-	-
" 19: Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-	-
" 23: Prohibition of heavy work	-	-
" 24: First aid - general provisions	3	3
Information for Employees Regulations 1965	-	-
Totals:	14	13
No. of prosecutions: Nil.		

(e) Staff.

No. of Inspectors appointed under Sec.52(1) or (5) of the Act	...	4
No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	...	Nil

2. FACTORIES ACT 1961.

There are eighty-two registered factories, five of them being on Crown property and therefore controlled entirely by the Factories Inspectorate.

(a) Registrations and Inspections.

Premises:	No. on Register:	No. of:		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs.1, 2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by the local authority	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority	82	* 22	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	4	-	-
Totals:	88	26	-	-

* Inspection of factories which are also food premises (e.g. bakehouses and poultry packing stations) are not recorded here, as the maintenance of sanitary accommodation is checked during inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(b) Number of Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars:	No. of cases where defects were:				Prosecu- -tions:
	Found:	Remedied:	Referred:-		
			to H.M. Insptr.	by H.M. Insptr.	
Sanitary conveniences (Sec. 7):					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-

(c) Outworkers.

There are six outworkers registered in this district, one being engaged on dress-making and five on glove-making.

Many trades are scheduled as requiring registration of outworkers under Section 133 of the Factories Act, varying from clothing manufacture to the making of anchor chains, but trimming of moulded rubber articles, which is now the main home industry in the Corsham and Box area, is not included.

E. RODENT CONTROL.

1. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

(a) Rodent Control.

The Rodent Officer's work has consisted mainly of surveying properties where rats or mice are likely, treating Council properties, and to a limited extent, carrying out treatments for members of the public. The Council's duty under this Act is to ensure that occupiers prevent infestation of their premises, and treatments, for which a charge is made, can only be done when the Rodent Officer has time to spare. Bait containing warfarin poison is also sold to the public.

The use of warfarin has removed most of the risks inherent in poison baiting and makes it possible for members of the public to carry out their own treatments if given some advice on their particular infestation. Failures in treatment are usually due to not baiting over a sufficiently wide area and not continuing the treatment for long enough. It must be admitted that with warfarin, rats will eat a considerable amount of the bait, and the baiting points should be kept topped up for at least a fortnight to ensure eradication of the pests.

In the case of farms particularly, it follows that the man on the spot is most able to carry out effective treatment, provided that he knows what to do. We have discussed this with officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and they are prepared to run three-day training courses in rodent control if there is a demand for them.

(b) Inspection of Properties other than Sewers.

	Type of property:	
	Non-Agricultural:	Agricultural:
No. of properties in the district	8198	1086
Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification:	275	15
No. infested by: (i) Rats	98	13
(ii) Mice	15	-
Total no. of properties inspected on routine surveys:	681	48
No. infested by: (i) Rats	37	17
(ii) Mice	4	-

(c) Sewer Test-Baiting and Treatment.

All of the Council's sewers have been test-baited during the year and small sections in Corsham and Box, which were found to be infested, received a full treatment.

1. PETROLEUM LICENSING.

There are now 151 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum, and during the year twenty-five visits were made in connection with the testing of new or altered installations, and to deal with complaints.

One form of complaint which occurs occasionally, especially in Corsham, is of a smell of petrol coming, apparently, from the surface water drainage system. It is usually impossible to find the causes of these complaints because no-one knows how many docks there are, or in which direction they run. In one case we were able to trace the cause to a spillage more than a quarter of a mile from premises from which the complaint was received.

The intermittent occurrence of these complaints suggests that they are due to accidental spillages or to careless throwing of waste petrol or paraffin into a drain or onto ground from which it percolates into a dock.

The dangers of petrol/air mixtures in old drains are obvious and I would like to be informed of any evidence of petrol in drains, and of any spillage of petrol or similar products where there is any possibility that it may get into a drain or old dock.

2. DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957.

There are now six licensed swill-boiling plants in the district, and all have been visited to ensure compliance with the Order.

When the serious outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurred in the West Midlands and Gloucestershire, I took the precaution of advising all persons licensed under the above Order to make quite sure that they were complying with the requirements of the Order. This was to ensure that no outbreak in this district should be traced to the negligence of any licensee boiling swill within the Rural District.

3. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

There are now six licensed establishments, two having closed down at the end of the year.

4. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964.

One more scrap metal dealer has been registered, bringing the total number of registrations to seventeen.

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